



State of Tennessee  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**HOPE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS TO CLOSE OCTOBER 29**  
***ELIGIBLE STUDENTS STILL HAVE TIME TO APPLY WITH ONLINE FAFSA***

Nashville, Tenn. — Tennessee students who make the grade for the HOPE Scholarship have until October 29 to get their applications processed to receive the award for the 2004-2005 academic year. Applications processed by October 29 will be considered for HOPE and other Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) Program awards.

Dr. Myron Oglesby-Pitts, director of TELS, said, "This opportunity is too good to pass up. If you are an eligible student enrolled in an eligible Tennessee postsecondary institution, and you still have not applied for HOPE, I encourage you to apply online immediately to get the scholarship you have earned. If you don't get HOPE in your first semester, you can't get it later, and that could mean giving up as much as \$20,000 over the course of an education."

To apply for HOPE and other TELS awards, students must submit a 2004-2005 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and be enrolled at an eligible institution. The online FAFSA is available at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and takes approximately one week to process.

Students graduating from high school in December 2004 will have until Friday, February 4, 2005, to have the FAFSA processed. Applicants for the \$1,250 Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant to pursue a certificate or diploma at a Tennessee Technology Center may apply at any time during the year.

Legislative changes to the HOPE Scholarship program expanded eligibility to many students. Specifically, ACT requirements for home-schooled students changed to 21 from 23; core curriculum requirements were eliminated; and Tennessee residents who graduated from out-of-state boarding schools and out-of-state high schools in counties bordering Tennessee became eligible. In addition, dependent children of U.S. military or Tennessee National Guard on active duty out of state who have maintained home of record in Tennessee, as well as graduates of high schools on military bases located in whole or in part in Tennessee, are eligible under the revised rules.

The TELS program awards up to \$4,000 per year for eligible students to attend a college, university or technology center in Tennessee. So far, approximately 47,000 awards have been made. For more information about the HOPE Scholarship and other TELS awards, visit [www.TNScholarDollars.com](http://www.TNScholarDollars.com), or call the HOPE Hotline at (615) 741-1346 (press 1) or (800) 342-1663 (press 1).

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